

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 14, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2, 6, 15 and 26 have been cancelled. Claims 1-26 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (US Patent No. 6,684,456).

Claims 2, 6, 15, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of the deleted claims 2, and 6.

The Office Action asserts that Lee discloses “the pusher comprises a locking protrusion (123), the hinge body is provided with a guide slot (slide walls between supporting brackets) and the locking protrusion is inserted into the guide slot, and prevents the release of the pusher from the hinge body. A first protrusion (114) positioned at one side of the hinge body, to prevent the supporting brackets from entering the coupling hole. The main body comprises a hooking portion positioned at one side of the main body of an image forming apparatus, and the hinge body comprises a second protrusion(131) positioned at a first side of the hinge body, that is caught by the hooking portion, thereby preventing the release of the hinge body from the coupling hole when the hinge body is moved in a direction opposite the first direction.

By way of review, Lee discloses “position-fixing member 121 comprises two supporting plates 123 and 123'. The supporting plates 123 and 123' have upper surfaces 122 and 122' to engage with the cam surfaces 171, 172 and 173 of the position-fixing cam 117 to settle the position of the automatic document feeder 2 or guide the movement thereof, and protrusions 124 and 124' to support the first elastic springs 125 and 125', respectively.”(col. 6, lines 57-62).

As noted above, Lee discloses the supporting plates 123 and 123' to engage with the cam surfaces 171, 172 and 173 of the position-fixing cam 117 to settle the position of the automatic document feeder 2 but fails to disclose “the pusher comprises a locking protrusion; the hinge body is provided with a guide slot; and the locking protrusion is inserted into the guide slot, and prevents the release of the pusher from the hinge body” (emphasis added) as recited in claim 1.

As such, it is respectfully requested that this rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn and independent claim 1 be allowed. In addition, for at least similar rationale, it is

respectfully submitted that claims 2-8, which depend from claim 1, are also in proper condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been canceled and the limitations of the canceled claim 15 are incorporated into claim 11.

Regarding claims 15, 16, 18, and 19, the Office Action sets forth that Lee discloses “a first protrusion (114) positioned at one side of the hinge body, to prevent the supporting brackets from entering the coupling hole.”

By way of review, Lee discloses “the upper hinge 113 comprises a fixing frame 114 having projection brackets 119 and 119' screwed on fixing bosses 14 and 14' (FIG.7) formed at one side of a lower surface of the lower frame 3 of the automatic document frame 2” (col. 6, lines 1-3) but fails to disclose “ the hinge body comprises a first protrusion, to limit an amount the hinge body moves into the opening in the main body” as recited in amended claim 11.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn and the claim 11 be allowed.

In addition, it is respectfully requested that claims 12-20, 22-25 which depend from claim 11, also be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

Regarding claims 9, 10, and 21, the Office Action sets forth that Lee discloses “the hinge apparatus is of a plastic resin material.”

By way of review, the Office Action fails to address “the hinge apparatus is of a plastic resin material” is disclosed in Lee. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 9, 10, and 21 be withdrawn and the claims 9, 10, and 21 be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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